the community. On the other hand, owing to the complex nature of the mental traits of the highest type, the brightest examples of inherent ability have come and will come from chance mating in the general population, the common people so-called, because of the variability there existent. There can be no permanent aristocracy of brains, because families, nò matter how inbred, will remain variable while in existence and will persist but a comparatively short time as close-bred strains. But he is a trifler with little thought of his duty to the state or to himself, who, having ability as a personal endowment, does not scan with care the genealogical record of the family into which he enters." "The hybridization of extremes is undesirable because of the improbability of regaining the merits of the originals, yet hybridization of somewhat nearly related races is almost prerequisite to rapid progress, for from such hybridization comes that moderate amount of variability which presents the possibility of the superindividual, the genius. . . . . Further, there must be periods of more or less inbreeding following racial mixtures, if there is to be any high probability of isolating desirable extremes. A third essential in the production of racial stamina is that the ingredients in the melting pot be sound at the beginning, for one does not improve the amalgam by putting in dross."

One of the most valuable features of the book is the admirable bibliography of 225 titles.—M. C. COULTER.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Temperature and the cobalt chloride method of measuring transpiration.—In the improvement by LIVINGSTON and SHREVE[5] of STAHL'S cobalt method of measuring transpiration, one question has remained unanswered, namely, Is it sufficiently accurate to regard the temperature of the slip as it lies on the leaf as being the same as that of the surrounding air? SHREVE[6] has answered this question by making use of a thermo-electrical method for measuring leaf temperatures. This method differs from previous ones in the avoidance of the wounding of the leaf and the resulting temperature complications. Using this method, SHREVE has demonstrated that both in the determination of the index of transpiring power by cobalt slips, and in the standardizing of the slips themselves over a porous evaporating surface, no error results from using the temperature of the air surrounding the apparatus instead of the temperature of the slips themselves.—S. V. EATON.

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[5] LIVINGSTON, B. E., The resistance offered by leaves to transpirational water loss. Plant World **16**:1–35. 1913.

LIVINGSTON, B. E., and SHREVE, E. B., Improvements in the method for determining the transpiring power of plant surfaces by hygrometric paper. Plant World **19**:287–309. 1916.

[6] SHREVE, E. B., A thermo-electrical method for the determination of leaf temperature. Plant World **22**:100–104. *figs. 2.* 1919.

———, The rôle of temperature in the determination of transpiring power of leaves by hygrometric paper. Plant World **22**:172–180. *fig. 1.* 1919.